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AGAWAM

ADVERTISER NEWS

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WEST OF THE RIVER FAMILY CENTER

'It did not work out and we have to close'

Former YMCA will close amid rising deficits, falling enrollment

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

A valiant fight ended last Thursday as the Board of Directors of the West of the River Family Center voted unanimously to close the nonprofit community center on Friday, Dec. 30.

The vote to close came after the board learned that Stick Time Sports was withdrawing from a deal with the family center to combine resources at Stick Time's facility. Without the deal, board members agreed, there was no hope to keep the nonprofit going. "We did not have any choice,"

said Joseph Mineo, chairman of the board, who is also an Agawam city councilor. He said the family center, in its current location, was bringing in about \$8,000 in membership fees each month, with \$20,000 in bills. "It simply did not make sense and we tried to do something by joining with Stick Time," he said. "But it did not work out and we have to close."

The community center opened at 61 Springfield St. in October 2014 as the Agawam YMCA Wellness and Program Family Center. When the Greater Springfield YMCA withdrew its sponsorship

in June of this year — also because of stagnant membership levels — the members, staff and advisory board of the Agawam branch kept the community center alive as an independent nonprofit, with considerable financial and administrative help from the Valley Opportunity Council, a nonprofit agency based in Holyoke.

Mineo said the money provided by the VOC was meant to be paid back at some point. With the nonprofit being dissolved, the money will not be paid back to the VOC.

CLOSING | page 5



The sign still says "We are open" at the West of the River Family Center, but members learned this week that the community center will close Dec. 31. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY MICHAEL J. BALLWAY



Feeding Hills resident Crystal Jackson pauses after laying a wreath at the gravestone in the state veterans' cemetery in Agawam during Saturday's snowstorm. Her husband Richard holds more wreaths that the couple planned to place at other gravestones in the cemetery as part of Wreaths Across America on Dec. 17. Several Agawam residents participated in the wreath-laying event. More photos on page 8. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY MIKE LYDICK

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Police arrest operator of 2nd 'massage parlor' in town

By Michael J. Ballway
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After raiding Feeding Hills Spa — a second-floor "massage parlor" business on Springfield Street allegedly based on human trafficking and forced prostitution — police last week arrested a Feeding Hills resident, Chun Nu Li, 50, in New York.

It was the second arrest that week relating to prostitution and

human trafficking in Agawam. Law enforcement agencies led by the state attorney general's office, including Agawam Police, had raided Agawam Massage Therapy near the South End Bridge on Dec. 13, and that day arrested Shuzi Li, 52, of West Springfield.

Chun Nu Li, the alleged operator of Feeding Hills Spa, was arrested on Dec. 16 by New York State Police in the Flushing neighborhood of Queens, N.Y.

The Hampden district attorney's office said it expected her to be returned to Massachusetts "soon" to face prostitution and human trafficking charges.

"Human trafficking is an especially detestable crime, which preys on vulnerable people for the financial profit of the perpetrator," commented Anthony Gulluni, the district attorney, in a prepared statement. "The Hampden district attorney's office and

its law enforcement partners are committed to stopping this form of exploitation and firmly applying the law to these offenders. I would like to thank the Massachusetts State Police detectives assigned to my office, particularly Trooper Matthew Simpson, who spent many hours on this complicated investigation. Additionally, I would like to express my grati-

ARREST | page 5

CITY COUNCIL

Mayor won't get a raise

Proposed hike in school board stipend also fails

By Gregory A. Scibelli
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The mayor's salary is staying the same after the Agawam City Council voted against a proposed \$10,000 increase on Monday night.

In a similar split vote, the majority of councilors also rejected a \$2,000 raise in the annual stipend for the six elected School Committee members. Annual pay rates will remain at \$85,000 for the mayor and \$5,000 for the school board.

The mayor has not seen an increase since 2008, but Mayor Richard Cohen — who has been in office nearly all that time — had gone on record stating if the council passed the raise, he would veto it.

The ordinance was sponsored by Councilor Christopher Johnson, himself a former mayor and, more recently, a political rival of Cohen's during his recently concluded tenure as president of the City Council. It was based on a proposal by School Committee member Anthony Bonavita, who had also suggested raising the City Council stipend from \$10,000 to \$12,000, though Johnson did not bring that proposal to the council.

Johnson said he asked for salary increases for the mayor and School Committee in order to

SALARY | page 5



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Playwright donates Anne Sullivan books to library

The Agawam Public Library was presented earlier this year with two signed copies of Jean Welt Taylor's book "Gentle Hand to Victory," a biography of Anne Sullivan, the lifelong teacher of Helen Keller. The books were obtained from Taylor by Lyle Pearsons, co-founder and director of the Red Door Theatre in Feeding Hills.

Pearsons, while writing a play about Sullivan, found inspiration and valuable information in Taylor's book. After locating her in Arizona, Pearsons called and asked for permission to use some of her research. He also received permission to send her a number of her books to autograph, for use in fundraisers to repair the small monument that designates Sullivan's birthplace. The plaque marks the location of an old boarding house where she was born on South Westfield Street in Feeding Hills.

Pearsons' play, "Teacher, the Annie Sullivan Story," premiered in April at the Red Door Theatre in celebration of the 150th anniversary of Sullivan's birth. Many local



Lyle Pearsons, left, presents Judith Cline, director of the Agawam Library, with signed copies of "Gentle Hand to Victory," a book about Anne Sullivan written by former Feeding Hills resident Jean Welt Taylor. SUBMITTED PHOTO

leaders, including members of the Historical Society, Library Council, Arts Council, which gave the theater a grant to help fund the project, the Rotary Club and the City Council were in attendance. Following the performance, Mayor Richard Cohen presented the Red Door Theatre with a proclamation thanking the theater for its 25 years of operation and serving the community and its young people with award-winning live theater.

Pearsons told the audience that Taylor, a former Feeding Hills resident and a descendant of Sullivan, insisted copies of her book go to the Historical Society and the Agawam Library so others might enjoy and come to know this remarkable, world-renowned woman from their own hometown.

The book is available at the library in the "Local History" collection. For more information about the library, visit www.agawamlibrary.org and for the Red Door Theatre, reddoortheatre.com.

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16 PAGES

Cupboard's pantry in good shape for holiday food need

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

WEST SPRINGFIELD — The Parish Cupboard food pantry is fully stocked for the Christmas holiday.

The food pantry on Main Street near Memorial Avenue, which serves West Springfield and Agawam residents, has received several generous donations in recent weeks and has full shelves, said Lorraine Craven.

She said that patrons of the Cupboard

are only allowed to come for food a maximum of once per month. She said there are no special distributions of foods or complete meals for Christmas or other holidays during the season.

She did say that people who do make their visit to the pantry near Christmas may have the opportunity to get turkeys and other necessities for a Christmas dinner, depending on the donations that come in.

"We do get a lot of turkeys donated around this time of the year and they are

starting to come in," she said. "But it really depends on who comes in and what donations we receive."

She encourages people who are in need to contact the Parish Cupboard at 413-734-7969. She also reminds people the hot lunch program runs from 11:20 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Residents seeking food must bring proof of residency in the form of a bill or piece of mail for each visit.

Sacred Heart plans holy day Masses

Sacred Heart Church will celebrate Christmas and the Solemnity of Mary with holy day Masses during the next two weekends. The Catholic church is at 1065 Springfield St., Feeding Hills.

Saturday, Dec. 24: 4 p.m. and 5:30 p.m., Christmas Vigil Masses; 10 p.m., solemn sung Christmas Mass with organ, choir, trumpet, flute, timpani and piano.

Sunday, Dec. 25: 10 a.m., Christmas Day Mass.

Saturday, Dec. 30: 4 p.m., Mass.

Sunday, Jan. 1: 8 a.m. and 10 a.m., Mass.

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Agawam Advertiser News

OBITUARY
POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$75, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

Council split on 2% raise approved for town employees

By Gregory A. Scibelli

gscibelli@turley.com

The Agawam City Council approved an additional \$77,303 to spend on the new contract for the various unions covering town employees on Monday night.

The approval did not come without some dissent, but the approval of funding for the union contract means they will be funded for the next three years. It also come much sooner than the two previous contracts.

Some of the main highlights of the new contract are 2 percent cost-of-living salary increases each year for the three years of the contract. On top of that, Councilor Christopher Johnson said the police officers and firefighters also received additional increases to their base salaries.

Though Johnson said he was not against salary increases and cost-of-living increases for all employees, he said Mayor Richard Cohen exceeded the funding the council provided for him to negotiate with.

Council President James Cichetti said the town budgeted \$325,000 to be put toward salary increases for contract negotiations.

"This is going to cost the town more than \$400,000 per year for the next two years as well," said Johnson. "I just want the council to be aware of how much we are spending. Once we approve this, we are bound to fund the contracts

for years two and three."

Cohen disagreed with Johnson's assessment of the contract funding. He said the \$325,000 is an estimate that he starts out with for the negotiations.

"We have always started out with an estimate for cost-of-living," said Cohen. "Then we appropriate more money from free cash once the contracts are negotiated."

Councilor Robert Rossi was one of the votes against the contracts. He said was in favor of raises, but was against other aspects of the contract.

Johnson told the council that the contract vote every three years is one of the most important votes the legislative body takes.

"These contracts are just a part of it," said Johnson. "We also have the School Committee raises that we will also have to fund. It will add up to more than \$1 million each year."

The Finance Subcommittee voted to make no recommendation on the contracts. Councilor Paul Cavallo, a member of that committee, said there were too many conflicting opinions on the subcommittee to make a recommendation.

"We felt it was something we wanted to air out in front of the entire council," said Cavallo.

Cavallo said he felt 2 percent was reasonable and a cost-of-living adjustment that most municipalities are giving employees. He implored the councilors to approve the contracts and the

additional funding.

When it came to the additional funding for the contracts, which came from free cash, councilors Cecilia Calabrese, Donald Rheault, and Robert Rossi voted against the resolution. Councilor Richard Theroux recused himself from the entire issue because his son is an employee of the town.

When it came to approval of the actual contract, only Rheault cast a dissenting vote.

The council also approved an order to move nearly \$400,000 to the various salary accounts for the employees the contracts affected. Because the contracts are retroactive to the beginning of the current fiscal year, the employees in the various union will receive pay increases retroactive to July.

The affected unions were the police supervisors, police patrolmen, building maintenance, firefighters, public works, clerical and administrative unions. It was the first time in the past three budget cycles that contracts were funded before the change of the calendar. The last two contracts were not funded until April, with employees getting retroactive pay dating back nine months.

"I am very happy to have all 13 contracts completed," said Cohen. "That includes the town and school employee contracts."

DPW gives holiday wastepaper recycling tips

Tracy DeMaio, recycling coordinator for the Agawam Department of Public Works, reminds residents of the following recycling regulations for Western Massachusetts.

The following items may be included in the paper recycling mix for curbside pickup in blue bins: corrugated cardboard boxes; paperboard gift boxes; greeting cards (except those with foil metallic inks or glitter); gift wrap, gift bags, tissue wrap (except

those with foil metallic inks or glitter); paper shopping bags (any type of handle is OK); catalogs; and calendars.

The following items should not be included in blue bins: ribbons, bows and tinsel; packing peanuts and Styrofoam; holiday lights; blister packaging (formed plastic package used to hold toys and electronics); plastic bags; and photographs.

For more information visit www.springfielddmf.org.

Trash hauler will pick up Christmas trees Jan. 2-5

Republic Services will again provide a courtesy collection of Christmas trees, the Agawam Department of Public Works announced this week.

Trees will be picked up at the curb on the same day trash service is scheduled during the week of Jan. 2-5. Christmas trees 7 feet tall or larger must be cut in half and placed on the tree belt no earlier than 7 a.m. of the collection day. Trees in plastic bags will not be collected.

It is not the responsibility of the hauler

to dig out trees buried in the snow, whether due to plowing or excessive snowfall. The regular trash truck will not collect trees; a separate truck will run the collection on the dates above.

To dispose trees prior to or after the scheduled collection day, yard waste passes for the Bondi's Island landfill are available at the Department of Public Works, 1000 Suffield St., Agawam, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, excepting holidays.

Internships offered at Senate district office

WESTFIELD — State Sen. Donald Humason is seeking interns to help with constituent service and legislative work in his district office, located at 64 Noble St. in Westfield.

"Every day is unique in my office, which makes for a great opportunity to learn about our government and develop new skills," said Humason. "In addition to the quality constituent services we provide every day, we'll be starting a new session in the Senate that will bring a flurry of legislative activity to my office that makes for an exciting time for anyone interested in

government."

The ideal intern is a college student who receives school credit for a structured internship experience. Preference will be given to individuals who live in the 2nd Hampden and Hampshire District, which includes all of Agawam.

Positions, which are unpaid and non-partisan, are available immediately. A resume, references, or writing sample may be required. Those interested may contact Humason's district chief of staff, Andrew Renfro, at 413-568-1366.

Magovern returns to WSU board

Robert A. Magovern, president of Agawam-based Neighbor to Neighbor, has been re-appointed to serve on Westfield State University's Board of Trustees. The appointment marks Magovern's third term of service on the board, following previous terms in 1997-2002 and 2005-2009. Magovern's current term will continue through 2021.

"Board oversight is critically important, especially at our public institutions, and we are confident these appointees will bring extensive leadership, professional and academic experiences to the benefit of the schools and their students," said Gov. Charlie Baker in the fall when he announced Magovern and other board appointments for public colleges and universities in Massachusetts.

"Our students and full campus community will again benefit from Trustee Magovern's keen business sense and his veteran perspective as an incumbent board member at Westfield State," said Westfield State University Board of Trustees Chairman Steven Marcus. "Trustee Magovern's appreciation for and intimate understanding of the impact of public higher education is critical in the governance of the university."

Magovern started his own business in 1975, which grew to become Neighbor to Neighbor, a regional "new resident" welcoming company serving customers in Massachusetts and Connecticut. Prior to Neighbor to Neighbor, he was vice president of the Magovern Company, a retail company that sold golf course equipment with stores throughout Western Massachu-

setts, Connecticut and New York. Magovern earned his bachelor of science degree in business administration from Boston University.

Aside from running his business, he is the current chairman of the Republican Town Committee. As a former City Council president, Magovern formed the Financial Oversight and Industrial Relations committees. He was also president of the Agawam Rotary Club, was a co-founder of both Agawam's St. Patrick's Day Committee and the Longmeadow Historical Society's Long Meddowe Days event. In addition, Magovern was a co-founder of the Society of the 17th Century, a group that promotes 17th Century New England history and performs reenactments in the area. On the state level, Magovern was a member of the Massachusetts

Republican State Committee and served on its executive board.

"As a firm believer in public higher education, I am thrilled to rejoin the Westfield State board," said Magovern. "Westfield State is one of the finest state universities within Massachusetts."

Magovern's grown children — James Magovern and Carrie Salzer — both received their bachelor's degrees from University of Massachusetts Amherst; Salzer received her master's degree in sociology from Westfield State. Magovern lives with his wife Margaret in Agawam.

Comprising 11 members, the Westfield State University Board of Trustees is appointed by the governor. Each member is appointed for a five-year term.



Robert Magovern

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Opinion

OUR VIEW

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus

More than 100 years ago, one of New York's great daily newspapers, The Sun, published a letter to the editor and an editorial whose fame endure to this day. After originally publishing it Sept. 21, 1897, the newspaper reprinted it annually for 50 years until it ceased publishing.

Today, the Agawam Advertiser News is proud to pick up this tradition and reprint Francis P. Church's famous editorial, one of the finest descriptions of Christmas spirit ever committed to newsprint. We share this with you in the spirit of the holidays.

Dear editor:

I am 8 years old.

Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus.

Papa says, 'If you see it in THE SUN it's so.'

Please tell me the truth; is there a Santa Claus?

Virginia O'Hanlon, 115 W. 95th St.

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! How dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus. It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You may tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God he lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

From all of us at the Agawam Advertiser News, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Let us know

The Agawam Advertiser News, your community newspaper, welcomes letters, submissions, photographs and news tips from residents of Agawam and Feeding Hills.

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Our office is open Monday through Thursday mornings, and other weekday times by appointment.



YESTERDAY'S HOMETOWN NEWS

'I would have never known ya'

Math and numbers can be interesting, like last year when the date was 11-13-15, three consecutive odd integers. I asked my granddaughter Olivia when that would happen again. After a few minutes she got the answer.

Today I am writing this column on 12-14-16, three consecutive even integers. Wonder what the world will be like when that happens again. What will Agawam look like? Will anyone even remember any of us? Will there be a Willard Avenue? Driving in Enfield recently, almost into Longmeadow, there it was — Willard Avenue — and there were houses on it. I should bring a bicycle over some day and ride up and down it a few times.

The end of any year usually brings thoughts of what happened. For this column a lot had to do with class reunions. You probably have been to a few. Good places to see old friends from long ago and you get to see who has changed a lot and who looks pretty much the same.

My experiences at reunions, in stores, church, wakes and sporting events have given me some really forgettable memories and this being 12-14-16, I'm asking for feedback or voting for the worst memory of all. Here are the choices:

1. At a class reunion of graduates about 10 years older than me, several in the class asked me which classmate I am.

2. In a grocery store I say hello to a former student and tell her who I am. She shrieks, "Oh my God!"

3. Over at Doug Parker's house in Longmeadow a fellow retired AHS teacher making a delivery says, "I would have never known ya," when I tell her who I am.

4. At the reunion of the '71s, one of the girls from my homeroom in 1967 hollers out across the dining room of Casa di Lisa in a voice filled with doubt and disbelief, "That's Mr. Willard?"

5. Ray C. in Feeding Hills commenting about my column picture in sarcasm, "When was that picture taken?"

Those are the five choices. If you see me or want to call, tell me which one you think is the worst. At my age, I now think they are kind of funny and my wife and I joke about them all the time.

Coming up in 2017 will be the '67s' 50th. I may go to that because the '67s don't know me. When I was a senior at AHS, they were in eighth grade. When I started teaching in September of '67, they had just graduated. I've got an idea. I'll wear a disguise or maybe dress like a girl, like I did for Halloween one year.

Sue Spagnoli '82 will have her 35th in 2017. Everyone will recognize her because she has hardly changed, not like some of us.

The last column mistakenly had Douglas MacArthur's name instead of George Patton's. As the years go on, more and more I say right instead of left, up instead of down and even Yankees instead of Red Sox. This final sentence should make you happy: Ted Williams played right field for the Yankees and batted right-handed when he was down at the saucer.

Walt Willard went to AHS and taught math there for 16 years. He can be reached at 413-786-7924. Call him. Walt loves your feedback and any and all information or tidbits you can offer.



Walt Willard



Susan Spagnoli

Letter to the Editor

Park supervisor says farewell upon retirement

I have been the supervisor at Robinson State Park for the last 23 years and I will be retiring this January. My last day will be Jan. 2. First and foremost, I want to thank my wife Ann-Marie for being so understanding over my 39-plus years in public service because I missed almost every family gathering and worked odd hours over my career.

I also want to thank the Friends of Robinson State Park, Agawam Police Department, Agawam Fire Department, Agawam DPW, Mass. Environmental Police and DCR Park Rangers for all their assistance over the years.

To all my regular patrons "and their dogs," I will miss you all very much. I don't know what DCR is planning for the park when I am gone, but I hope they get someone who loves the park as much as I did. I will be around now and then to visit and if you stop by before Jan. 3, I would love to say goodbye to you.

Thanks for being such a caring community that obviously loves this park very much. Happy holidays!

Joe Sarkis
West Springfield

MORE LETTERS I page 5

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must include a name, address, and daytime telephone number for author verification purposes. We do not publish anonymous letters. All letters are subject to editing for content and space. The deadline is Monday at Noon. Please send letters to *Agawam Advertiser News*, Letters to the Editor, Attn: Teri Machia, 380 Union Street, Suite 52; West Springfield, MA 01089 or e-mail aan@turley.com.



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Red Cross urges blood donations this winter

As freezing temperatures and harsh weather grip much of the nation, the American Red Cross urges eligible donors to make an appointment to give blood or platelets to help meet the constant need for blood this winter.

Blood drives will be held in Agawam Tuesday, Jan. 3, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Dunkin' Donuts, 389 Main St.; and Friday, Jan. 13, from 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Agawam High School, 760 Cooper St.

Millions of people are expected to take to the roads, rail and air to celebrate the season, which can cause fewer donors to be available and lead to a decline in blood and platelet donations. In addition, severe win-

ter weather and seasonal illnesses can temporarily prevent some from giving. Donors with all blood types are needed now to help patients. As a special thank you for taking the time to donate, those who come out to give Dec. 22 through Jan. 8 will receive a long-sleeved Red Cross T-shirt, while supplies last.

To schedule an appointment to donate, use the free Blood Donor App, visit redcrossblood.org or call 800-733-2767. Donation appointments and completion of a RapidPass online health history questionnaire are encouraged to help reduce wait times.

CLOSING ■ from page 1

The partnership with Stick Time, an indoor sports training facility across the parking lot from the family center's current location, was intended to boost revenues, by attracting new members from families of athletes who practice at Stick Time, and dramatically cut expenses. Mineo said the family center's rent payments at Stick Time were going to be one-third what they are now.

On Nov. 29, the Board of Directors had informed a group of members that they "had a deal" with the owner of Stick Time Sports.

The plan was for the West of the River Family Center to move into Stick Time and occupy part of their space with equipment and space for classes and activities. The two entities would also take advantage of cross-promotion between their memberships to hopefully build more programs and attract more members.

Mineo said he had signed a purchase order for new equipment so the family center no longer needed to lease exercise equipment from the Springfield YMCA.

But on Dec. 12, Mineo said he received a letter from Stick Time President Sean Provost that stated Stick Time did not wish to pursue a relationship with West of the Riv-

er.

"Unfortunately, due to many uncertainties, we feel at this time that is in our best interest to work independently and we regrettably wish to pass on the proposed solution of working with the West of the River Family Center," Provost stated in his letter. "We truly appreciate all the board's efforts to try and accomplish a partnership."

Provost further stated that Stick Time would attempt to offer classes and activities that would be of interest to West of the River members.

Mineo confirmed that he never reached a formal contract with Stick Time, though he felt one was imminent because he had signed an agreement for West of the River to pay for equipment ordered by Stick Time. The equipment was ordered by Stick Time because they were able to secure a good deal, Mineo said.

"The order for equipment was cancelled after Stick Time withdrew their interest," said Mineo.

The West of the River Family Center planned to hold a meeting Tuesday, Dec. 20, to inform its members of the impending closure.

SALARY ■ from page 1

attract more qualified candidates in the bi-annual elections, especially for the mayor's seat. The 2015 elections saw just seven candidates for the six School Committee seats, and just one write-in candidate offering the only opposition to Cohen. In contrast, there were 17 candidates for the 11 council seats.

"You get you pay for," Johnson told his fellow councilors. "And we can certainly act with political expediency and turn this down. But we need to attract more qualified candidates."

Cohen said he did not take Johnson's comments about "qualified candidates" personally, and is focused on his job.

"I have a thick skin, so I did not take those comments personally," Cohen said. "I sit in this seat every day, and I think the town is in very good shape."

He added that he is happy with the salary he receives and does not want to make any changes.

"I did not get into public service for the money," he said.

Councilor Richard Theroux, chairman of the Legislative Subcommittee, said his committee considered both requests carefully, but ultimately voted 4-0 not to recommend any salary increases.

"At this time, the committee felt it was about public service," he said. "People join the School Committee because they are interested in what is going on in town. It is not about the money that is paid to the committee member." Theroux, who has held elected and appointed offices in town government since the 1970s, said he recalled a time when city councilors received just \$500 for the year. He also said some elected officials in other towns do not receive pay.

The mayor's salary increase failed with a 7-3 vote. Councilors Anthony Suffriti, Joseph Mineo and Johnson voted in favor. Only Johnson and Suffriti voted in favor of the School Committee salary increase, which failed 7-2. Mineo abstained because his son, Carmino Mineo, is a School Committee member.

Johnson said he compiled a list of the top 50 salaries in municipal government; the mayor, at \$85,000, does not even appear on the list. Ahead of the mayor are not just department heads, including the police and fire chiefs, and superintendent of schools, but school building administrators and police and fire officers.

The 50th highest salary is still \$4,000 ahead of the mayor, Johnson said.

Letters to the Editor

Toy exchange a big success thanks to community support

Thank you to the Agawam community for your support in making our first annual Holiday Used Toy Exchange a smashing success. It would not have happened without the contributions of many.

Thank you Agawam High School National Honor Society and other Agawam High School students for volunteering to organize toys and entertain children while parents shopped. Thank you Six Flags New England for the donation of 30 bikes and the company of Looney Tune Characters and the Elf at the exchange. Thank you Savers in West Springfield for donating toys. Thank you to those who donated toys and/or gave toys a loving home.

Thank you library staff for providing a welcoming environment. Thank you Agawam Environmental Coordinator (you know who you are) for logistical support and expertise.

See you all next year!

Abbey Massaro, Danielle Light and Nancy Bobskill
Agawam Zero Waste Club

ARREST ■ from page 1

tude to the Agawam Police Department for bringing this activity to our attention and for their partnership in the investigation. I also thank the Department of Homeland Security for its partnership and support."

On the morning of Dec. 13, the Massachusetts State Police Detective Unit assigned to the Hampden district attorney's office, Homeland Security investigators from Springfield, and the Agawam Police Department executed search warrants in Feeding Hills following a five-month investigation into allegations of prostitution and human trafficking. The warrants were for both Feeding Hills Spa, on the upper floor at 1226 Springfield St., and a private residence at 1162 Springfield St.

During the search, two victims of human trafficking were identified, interviewed and reunited with family with the assistance of victim witness advocates working in the Hampden district attorney's office. Police also identified a suspect, Chun Nu Li, and issued an arrest warrant. She was apprehended in New York three days later.

James Leydon, a spokesman for the DA's office, said the investigation is still ongoing. Earlier this week, an arraignment date had not yet been set for Chun Nu Li.

Shuzi Li appeared in Northampton District Court on Dec. 14, pleading not guilty to charges of trafficking persons for sexual servitude, deriving support from prostitution and money laundering. According to the office of Attorney General Maura Healey, her Agawam business allegedly recruited women, advertised sexual services online, set up appointments for sexual encounters, and arranged for transportation for the women. The women allegedly stayed in the same rooms where Shuzi Li arranged for them to provide sexual services to buyers for a fee. Authorities alleged that the business operator typically received the majority of the profits from these sexual encounters.



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NEWS & FEATURES

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue's relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

For more information on news or community features for the Agawam Advertiser News, please email mballway@turley.com.

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DEATH NOTICES

Cavallon, Marie C.
Died Dec. 12
Private funeral
Curran-Jones Funeral Home
Agawam

Clark, Mary P.
Died 10
Private arrangements

Holt, William T.
Died Dec. 12
Funeral Dec. 16
Colonial Forastiere Funeral Home
Agawam

Kasunick, Richard W.
Died Dec. 6
Calling hours Jan. 15
New England Funeral & Cremation Center LLC
Springfield

Levalle-Krone, Julia E.
Died Dec. 10
Funeral Dec. 17
Henderson's Funeral Home Inc.
Springfield

Agawam Advertiser News

OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$75, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph.

Death Notices & Paid Obituaries should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

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BABY'S FIRST CHRISTMAS 2016



Madelyn Rose Marrero

February 14, 2016

Parents: Angel and Ashley Marrero, Agawam

Grandparents: Rafael and Ana Gomez, Chicopee
Stephen and Carol Carmel, Agawam



Jackson Leo Connors

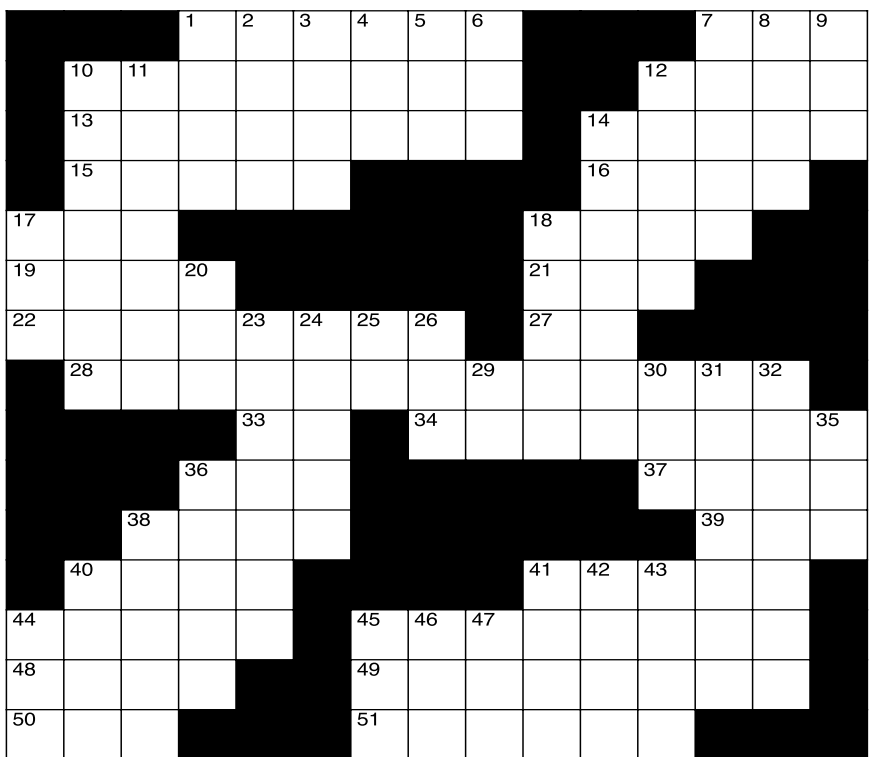
August 23, 2016

Parents: Nick and Jill Connors, Springfield

Grandparents: Bob and Carol Moccio, Agawam
Donald and Elaine Connors, East Longmeadow



HAPPY HOLIDAYS



CLUES ACROSS

1. Give a raucous cry
7. Mentally ill
10. Natural electrical phenomenon
12. Vessels
13. Judge the worth of something
14. South Asian garments
15. Studied intensively
16. District in Kazakhstan
17. Beloved meal ___ and cheese
18. Ceases to live
19. Home to BYU
21. What thespians do
22. Julianne Moore and Christina Hendricks are two
27. Double in chemistry
28. Clayton Kershaw plays here
33. Overdose
34. Begrudged
36. Consumed
37. A game of chance
38. A low platform
39. Shelled and crushed coffee bean
40. Dashes
41. Long lock of a woman's hair
44. Indicates silence in music
45. Positively charged
48. In bed
49. Cruciferous vegetable
50. Fuel
51. Kids' ride

CLUES DOWN

1. Greenish-blue
2. Having sufficient skill, knowledge, etc.
3. Dirt
4. New Zealand mountain parrot
5. Back muscle
6. Supplement with difficulty
7. Kate and Rooney
8. How Amazon identifies its products (abbr.)
9. Emirati island
10. Contended
11. Pear-shaped fruit
12. Parks cars
14. Killing oneself
17. Austrian river
18. Older brothers
20. Home hemodialysis
23. One who is self-absorbed
24. Yellow fever mosquitos
25. Pepper or Oz
26. Soviet Socialist Republic
29. Tellurium
30. Pens are filled with it
31. Use this at dinner
32. Thin fibrous cartilage (pl.)
35. When you were born
36. Oohed and ___
38. Small freshwater fishes
40. Religion in China
41. Twitches
42. Cape near Lisbon
43. Management software
44. Game for kids
45. Ed Murrow's home
46. They ___
47. Part of the foot

Fuel assistance applications available

SPRINGFIELD —Springfield Partners for Community Action is currently accepting applications for emergency fuel assistance for individuals who make too much money to meet most low-income fuel assistance guidelines, but who still find they are struggling to pay heating bills.

This one-time financial assistance paid directly to the energy company on behalf of the participant is available to Hampden County residents who are over-income for most fuel assistance, but have experienced a recent financial hardship. Other income

requirements may apply. For more information, call the agency at 413-263-6500.

Springfield Partners for Community Action is the official anti-poverty agency serving greater Springfield. The agency offers several programs and services designed to meet the needs of residents of Greater Springfield, including Asset Development, Housing and Energy Services, Multi-Cultural Alzheimer's Program, New Beginnings Early Education and Care Center and Veteran Services.

Christmas services planned at St. John's

St. John the Evangelist Church, 833 Main St., Agawam, will offer Christmas Eve Masses at 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 24. In addition to Midnight Mass, Christmas Day Masses will take place at 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

United Methodist to hold Christmas Eve service

A Christmas Eve service will take place at 7 p.m. at Agawam United Methodist Church, 459 Mill St., Feeding Hills.

There will be no Christmas Day service. All are invited to attend the 9 a.m. service on Dec. 25 at Christ Church United Methodist, 222 College Highway, Southwick.

Public Safety

FIRE LOG

The Agawam Fire Department responded to 62 EMS calls from Dec. 6 to Dec. 12, and the following emergency response calls.

On Dec. 6 at 9:35 a.m., the department responded to Springfield Street for lockout.

On Dec. 6 at 3:47 p.m., the department responded to Dwight Street to assist police or other governmental agency.

On Dec. 6 at 4:05 p.m., the department responded to Dwight Street for police matter.

On Dec. 6 at 9:24 p.m., the department responded to Mansion Woods Drive for service call, other.

On Dec. 7 at 7:03 a.m., the department responded to Senator Avenue for motor vehicle accident with injuries.

On Dec. 7 at 11:25 a.m., the department responded to Harvey Johnson Drive to assist invalid.

On Dec. 8 at 3:45 a.m., the department responded to Robin Ridge to assist invalid.

On Dec. 8 at 6:55 p.m., the department responded to Meadowbrook Manor for alarm system activation, no fire — unintentional.

On Dec. 8 at 12:44 p.m., the department responded to N. Westfield Street for lockout.

On Dec. 9 at 8:06 a.m., the department responded to Route 57 for motor vehicle accident with no injuries.

On Dec. 9 at 3:35 p.m., the department responded to Southwick Street for brush or brush-and-grass mixture fire.

On Dec. 10 at 1:57 p.m., the department responded to Meadowbrook Manor for lockout.

On Dec. 10 at 5:35 p.m., the department responded to Mallard Circle for smoke scare, odor of smoke.

On Dec. 11 at 7:32 a.m., the department responded to Riviera Drive for water or steam leak.

On Dec. 11 at 12:35 p.m., the department responded to Main Street for sprinkler activation due to malfunction.

On Dec. 11 at 1:09 p.m., the department responded to N. West Street for smoke detector activation due to malfunction.

On Dec. 11 at 3 p.m., the department responded to Reed Street for smoke scare, odor of smoke.

On Dec. 11 at 3:22 p.m., the department responded to Coyote Circle for CO detector activation due to malfunction.

On Dec. 11 at 4:15 p.m., the department responded to Cedar Knoll Drive for gas leak (natural gas or LPG).

On Dec. 12 at 9:01 a.m., the department responded to Elmar Drive for carbon monoxide detector activation, no CO.

On Dec. 12 at 3 p.m., the department responded to Suffield and Silver streets for motor vehicle accident with injuries.

POLICE LOG

The Agawam Police Department's arrest log for Dec. 13-19 was not received in time for the Agawam Advertiser News' deadline. The log will be printed in a future edition.

Youth

HIGH SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

Agawam High School Principal Steven Lemanski recently announced the first term honor roll for the 2016-17 school year.

Grade 12: Serena Abraham, Lillian Afflitto, Nicholas Askins, Michael Basile, Erin Berthiaume, Joshua Bolduc, Alexan Branton-Scafuri, Amberlie Brenes, Molly Breton, Olivia Brooks, Nina Bruno, Jack Bubie, Makayla Campelo, Christian Cardona, Katelin Carlson, Sydney Carra, Ethan Chan, Sydney Cofer, Anna Colfer, Julian Colon, Jordyn Comtois, Bianca Culhane, Abigail Cunningham, Joseph Cuzzone, Colin Czerpak, Matthew Dagenais, Mary D'Angelo, Xhy-Y Dao, Elisabeth Daydov, Sophia De Cesare, Frank Dejkus, Francesco DeMaio, Mollie Dion, Samantha Downs, Madison Dube, Makayla Eaton, Deric Farley, Zachary Fiedler, Jessica Fontaine, Jenna Forward, Karina Fronchkevich, Jenna Gamelli, Juste Gavelyte, Jenna Gay, Matteo Godek, Christian Gonet, Bailey Gordon, Alyssa Gravel, Amber Gray, Collette Groux, Ryan Haines, Soo-Ji Ham, Tyler Hamel, Jacob Hampton, Miranda Harpin, Gabriella Harrison, Aimee Heinze, Thomas Hendrickson, Alan Herlihy, Stephanie Herring, Caroline Hitchcock, Zachary Hodges, Garrett Hollander, Malvina Hrytskevich, Nathaniel Humphries, Lianna Johnson, Sierra Jones, Brian Keefe, Kaila Keene, Jonathan Kelley, Ji-Sun Kim, Colin Knowlton, Lydia Koury, Preston Kozub, Sierra Kruser, Ashley Krzykowski, Timothy Lamkins, Carly Laskowski, Erin Lavoie, Matthew Lemke, Matthew Lockwood, Lauren Lopez, Leishla Lugo, Hailey Lyne, Makari Mack, Devyn Manzi, Kevyn Martins, Jenna Matuza, Jacob Maynard, Connor McAnanama, Alexis McEligott, Vitaliy Melnik, Myia Misco, Maria Moccio, Brian Modzelesky, Bradley Montanez, Christopher Morassi, Kristina Nardi, Isabella Nettis, Jared Nigro, Shaun Noonan, Michaela Normand, Tanya Nosikova, Paul Oberheim, Alessio Papallo, Rachel Pellegrini, Samuel Perry, Anthony Piazza, Nicolas Pietroniro, Anastasiya Pirogova, Anna Pirogova, Cody Plankey, Emma-lee Rivet, Rich Roderiques, Dereck Rogers, Matthew Rolland, Mary Root, Samantha Rubacha, Kayla Rufo, Snizhana Salagornik, William Schwarz IV, Caitlyn Shean, Brendan Sheehan, Kyle Sheehan, Timothy Sliech, Sage Stathis, Patience Stevens, Samantha Stratton, Erika Sypit, Kyle Szczepanek, Gino Tedeschi, Shannon Thompson, Luis Torres, Bianca Toto, Gabrielle Valente, Jessica Vaughn, Jeremy Venne, Abagale Viens, Taia Vivencio, Allison Waris, Kathrynne Watkins, Michael Werbiskis IV, Kyle Widmer, Roman Yuseenko, Liana Zgherea, Melissa Zhao.

Grade 11: Drlona Ahmeti, Mergim Ahmeti, Camille Aloisi, Gino Aloisi, Lenox Alves, Juliana Amato, Nicholas Archambault, Meagan Arslanian, Brianna Aubrey, Alexander Bishop, Nicholas Black, Jeremy Bogacz, Jessica Bonfiglio, Dominic Brignoli, Michael Brissette, Isabella Brothers, Celina Burke, Lauren Callahan, Michael Caracciolo, Michael Carlin, Joshua Carrier, Nicholas Casamento, Adriana Chaika, Markus Chobotaru, Sophi Chrisanthopoulos, Erin Consedine, Manuelle Cordeiro Cales, Dominique Counos, Caitlin Courtney, Carley Crane, Samantha Cross, Caleigh Croteau, Santino Curto, Isabel De Marco, Natalie Dean, Madi Deboise-Wetherell, Daniel Denisenko, Zachary Dion, Nicole Dougherty, Kiley Dugan, Paige Edwards, Nicholas Faillace, Amanda Faucher, Kristen Fellion, Katerina Fenney, Amber Fillion, Rachel Florence, Emma Fogarty, Brett Forgette, Emily Fountain, Nicholas Frigo, Grace Frogameni, Brianna Fryer, Michael Gamelli, Kyle Garner, Brianna Gaynor, Tylor Goodell, Leah Gordon, Brianna Goyette, Ryan Graham, Steven Grasso, Jenna Gravel, Thomas Grenier, Ethan Gulla, Gabriel Guyette-holben, Lindsay Hartmann, Bella Hastings, Callum Hastings, Dakota Haupt, Jonathan Heelon, Joseph Hendrickson, Abbie Hoban, Paige Hollander, Quinnlyn Hunt, MaryRose Hutchins, Domenic Ingham, Matthew Iserman, Karl James, Joseph Johnston, Cassandra Jones, Adam Kerr, Kristina Kinchak, Sarah Krafcik, Derek Lafreniere, Nicholas Lamari, Nicole Langevin, Amy Langford, Cassidy Laudato, Kayla Laurie, William Le, Cameron Lebeau, Jonathan LeClair, Jarrod Lemke, Madison Lockwood, Sara Lubarsky, Jaden Luke, Nicole Luna, Zhihong Luo, Kyle Ma, Andrew MacDonald, Colin Mahoney, Colin Mahoney, Nicholas Malerba, Noah Marcotte, Alyssa Martin, Sierra Mc Donald, Paul Mellinger, Nicole Mercadante, Nathan Mitchell, Veronica Modirca, Alyssa Montagna, Amanda Moquin, Karissa Morin, Jacob Neal, Nickolas Negron, Carina Nesen, Sarah Newsome, Jimmy Nguyen, Gabrielle Nolds, Caitlin Normoyle, Kamer Nuhui, Joseph Oliver, Meagan Olson, Zachary Ouimette, Deanna Pahl, Dario Papallo, Melissa Paquette, Sadie Parrotta, Anthony Passerini, Khush Patel, Nil Patel, Collin Pelchat, Connor Pender, Mia Perella, Justin Poirier, Katelyn Poirier, Julia Potter, Alexis Ralph, Michael Reardon, Grace Rinaldi, Quinn Robinson, Matthew Rowe, Sonia Rubeck, Sarah Ruel, Jessica Santanillo, Jacob Sawyer, Audrey Shuart, Nina Signorelli, Laura Snow, Liam Sole, Quinne Stoddard, Jordan Streete, Angela Taliceo, Kaylee Tang, Kevin Tang, Corey Taylor, Eliza Timms, Sashaeliza Torres, Michael Urban, Benjamin Vyce, David Wheat, Ryan White, Brandon Whitehead, Jake Wieners, Brea Wier, Zachary Williams, Mara Winer, Isabella Yacovone, Yuki Zheng.

Grade 10: Ashley Adams, Kalea Alvarez, Natalie Andrews, Mariangelie Beaudry, Brandon Beaulieu, Meghan Beaumier, Jason Beaver, Sydney Biza, Veronica Bobskill, Diana Bortolussi, Kyle Bousquet, Juliet Burbank, Samantha Buteau, Jade Carney, Madison Carra, Nicholas

Charest, Isolina Cipriani, Bradley Clarke, Madison Cofer, Marissa Collins, Jailyn Colon, Lilivette Colon, Eyan Corridan, Yasuo Council, Raevin Crane, Amy Crawford, Cameron Croteau, Derek Davis, Tommaso DeCaro, Taylor DeGeorge, Mia DePalma, Olivia DePergola, Erin Dermody, Rachel Dialessi, Michael DiLullo, Daniel Dobrowski, Daniel Donahue, Joseph Dowd, Patrick Drake, Jared Durocher, Erin Dustin, Rawan Ebrahim, Sarah Ehresman, Parker Florian, Leniyah Garcia, Maria Giberson-Acevedo, Stas Gladun, Kathryn Glaessner, Zackary Godbout, Alia Godek, Timothy Goudreau, Ashley Grant, Jenna Grasso, Kiana Grover, Meghan Haines, Stephen Hall, Sangmyoung Han, Kayla Herlihy, Amanda Hitchcock, Emma Holmes, Madisyn Homer, Veranika Hrytskevich, Alexandra Humphries, Emily Hunt, Grayson Ilouza, Veniamin Iovenco, Peter Jang, Kayla Jennison, Hunter Jones, Miranda Kamukala, Irina Kaptyug, Tyler Kelley, Amanda Kiley, Matthew King, Geoffrey Klafeta, Oleksandra Kobylanska, Ariana Korcz, Ivan Korotich Jr, Adam Krafcik, Diana Kulmizev, Jeremy La Fleur, Caroline LaBonte, Samantha Landry, Madelyn Lapierre, Morgan Latourelle, Dante Lee, Joshua Lesser, Matthew Liimatainen, Justin Lingenberg, Benjamin Lockwood, Joseph Mach, Jorge Maisonet Perez, Scott Malecki, Marissa Mansfield, Kaily Mayo, Haily Mereschuk, Morgan Miller, Allysha Miolla, Vanni Morello, Camryn Nicora, Devin Nieves, Stanley Nieves, Daniel O'Connell, Madison O'Connell, Faith Olbrych, Emily Oliver, Michael Olson, Caroline Ortiz, Honesty Osbourne, Emily Ottomaniello, Cassidy Patterson, Gwendolyn Payne, Sophia Pearson, Joseph Pellegrino, Raisa Polyova, Jasmine Pszczola, Natalie Pullen, Mariana Reid, Noah Rivera, Katelyn Roberts, Erica Rogers, Nikayla Rogers, Claudia Romeo, Felicity Rovatti, Jordan Rowe, Faith Roy, Isaac Saenz, Justin Salva, Dustin Sanders, Robert Schlosser, Evan Shannon, Jacob Shea, Brandon Smith, Casey Smith, Sara Sonsini, Hayley Sotolotto, Michael Stepanik, Josephine Stewart, Sophia Strain, Andrew Sullivan, Stephen Surprenant, Justin Swistak, Avery Szulc, Moustafa Tahoun, Matthew Talevi, Alexandria Taylor, Lena Tedeschi, Joseph Thornton, Noah Trude, Ashley Ugolini, Gina Vreeland, John Wheat, Caleb Williams, Dominic Zampiceni, Gloria Zgherea, Valeria Zgherea.

Grade 9: Isabella Adorno, Shkurte Ahmeti, Arian-Albano, Sydney Anderson, Gabriella Badura, David Baranov, Imani Barbour, Emily Bazanchuk, Michael Beaudry, Madison Beaulieu, Conor Begley, Brianna Benjamin, Cameron Benoit, Michael Berthiaume, Lauren Blanchard, Maxwell Blanton, Emily Bonfiglio, Cierra Boniface, Elizabeth Bousquet, Gianna Boyle, Mackenzie Boyle, Nicholas Brady, Allison Breton, Jason Breton, Sofia Bubuz, Nicholas Buonagurio, Deanna Burlachenko, Thomas Caracciolo, Vincent Castro, Jamie-Lyn Cavallon, Aidan Chan, Ruby Chenevert, Cassidy Clarke, David Clarke, Shane Connor, Kiera Cooley, Russell Cooper III, Emily Cote, Riley Coughlin, Olivia Courchesne, Megan Crawford, Samaris Cruz, Adam Dabkowski, Alexander Denisenko, Sydney Dietrich, Arianna Donovan, Mackenzie Douglas, Mitchell Drewnowski, Jack Dunn, Megan Dunphy, Katherine Dustin, Madison Elias, Hailey Emmons, Erin Ewing, Emily Fallon, Maxwell Felix, Connor Feyre, Jaliyah Figueroa, Johnathon Filamonte, Tessa Fitzgerald, Matthew Flagg, Emily Fontaine, Bradley Forgette, Phoenix Francis, Jack Frogameni, Olivia Frogameni, Emma Gale, Patrick Gauthier, Sierra Gauthier, Karlie Germain, Nadia Ghareeb, Zao Gill, Emily Gillis, Katelyn Gingras, Santino Giordano, Mia Gonyer, Matthew Gorman, Savannah Goudreau, Edward Grigorchuk, Siyuan Hallowell, Matthew Harrington, Amanda Hervieux, Jaylee Hiersche, Rhiannon Hodovanec, Matthew Hotaling, Andrea Hunt, Kaylish Ingham, Heather Iserman, Mariel Izoita, Ally Jabry, Mark Jackson, Dong Kang, Mia Kelley, Nastasia Kirik, Cole Klafeta, Anthony Krzykowski, Allesia Ladue, Kristen Langevin, Eduard Lapsov, Nickolas Lavrenchuk, Payton Lemke, Julia Lescarbeau, Alexis Lindman, Lelanie Liporada, Josiah Lis, Matthew Long, Joseph Longo, Torin Lynch, Evan Lyne, McKenzie Lyne, Godfrey Macadangdang, Ryan MacDonald, Abbey Majka, John Manale, Merna Mandour, Jessica Marino, Nathan Mateus, Julie Mc Corkindale, Kirsten McDonnell, Eric Melnik, Harrison Mendrala, Carina Menovshchikova, Brandon Miner, Zachary Moccio, Connor Montagna, Anthony Mulka, Jonathan Murray, Sarafina Nardi, Eric Nesen, Reynaldo Nieves, Emelie Oberheim, Alexandra Oldenburg, Jailene Ortiz, Suzanne Page, Prem Patel, Kaia Pfeffer, Mason Phillips, Kristina Piazza, Emma-Lee Pickett, Samuel Polley, Ian Poulin, Geta Preniqi, Zachary Quick, Madeline Rahilly, Loredana Randazzo, Cassie Reed, Summer Reigles, Madison Rinker, Brody Robbins, Abigail Rodriguez, Jonathan Rolon, Mechayla' Rosa, Joseph Russo Jr, Anna Russo, Antonio Russo, Diana Rybnikov, Dzmitry Ryhal, Abigail Sanchez, Michael Santore, Gavin Scannapieco, Angelina Shayda, Jordan Shea, Irina Shostak, Nicholas Sibilla, Dylan Sliech, Emily Smidt, Mikayla Sole, Brady Spaulding, Arianna St Peter, Esther Stepchuk, Jeian Stewart, Jihan Stone, Gabrielle Suffriti, Brooke Szafran, Amanda Szczepanek, Robert Taylor II, Emma Thomson, Ethan Timms, Ahmet Topcuoglu, Humberto Torres, Sydney Trigilio, James Tyrowicz, Mason Wesley, Zack Wieners, Amanda Woodford, Marykate Wysocki, Gianna Yacovone, Eniya Yanina, Jessica Zhao, Eric Zheng.

Sing in the season



For their final song, fourth graders performed a lively and animated rendition of the popular Christmas classic, "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer."



Fourth graders from Phelps and Robinson Park schools gave the Agawam School Committee a special holiday treat at the Dec. 13 meeting — the gift of song. Children sang several of their holiday favorites under the direction of music teacher Paul Sawyer. Some students even put on grass skirts to help set the mood for their first selection, "Mele Kalikimaka" ("the Hawaiian Christmas Song"). TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY MIKE LYDICK

Happy Holidays!!!

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More youth news on page 9



Volunteers were undeterred by cold and falling snow in their mission to lay wreaths at the gravestones of veterans buried at the state cemetery. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY MIKE LYDICK

Storm can't stop wreath tradition



Brian Willette, commander of the Western Massachusetts Military Order of the Purple Heart, and his wife Gina, local coordinator for Wreaths Across America, address hundreds of volunteers at Saturday's wreath-laying event.

Hundreds of people throughout Western Massachusetts braved the bitter cold and a major snowstorm this past Saturday to pay tribute to veterans buried in Agawam. Volunteers laid wreaths at gravestones in the Massachusetts Veterans Memorial Cemetery on Main Street during a national event known as Wreaths Across America.

More than 4,000 live wreaths with red bows were laid at gravestones throughout the cemetery, where nearly 10,000 veterans and their spouses are interred. Individuals and organizations donated \$15 to sponsor a wreath.

The tradition of honoring deceased veterans during the holiday season by laying a wreath at their

gravestones began at Arlington National Cemetery in 1992 when a Maine businessman donated 5,000 wreaths.

This year, the wreaths placed at the Agawam cemetery were among more than 1 million wreaths placed at more than 1,000 locations across the country on Dec. 17.

Despite the weather, volunteers laid the largest number of wreaths ever at the Agawam cemetery for this event. The goal was to have enough sponsors so wreaths can be laid at each gravestone during Wreaths Across America Day, which is the third Saturday in December.

— Mike Lydick



Volunteers pitched in to carefully unload wreaths from a truck so they could then be placed at gravestones at Agawam's state veterans cemetery during Wreaths Across America Day.



More than 4,000 live wreaths with red bows were laid at gravestones throughout the cemetery, where nearly 10,000 veterans and their spouses are interred.



Hundreds of people from throughout Western Massachusetts braved bitter cold and a major snowstorm this past Saturday to lay wreaths at gravestones in the Massachusetts Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Agawam.



Mitch Drewnowski, 14, stacks wreaths for volunteers to pick up and lay at veterans' gravestones. A freshman at AHS, he's also a member of the school's hockey team.



Local Patriot Guard Riders formed a flag line in support of the opening ceremony for Wreaths Across America at the Massachusetts Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Agawam. Following the ceremony, they participated in laying wreaths at veterans' gravestones.

ST. PATRICK'S COMMITTEE AWARDS

Restaurateur, philanthropist Borgatti receives Citizenship Award OF 2017

Edward Borgatti, a lifelong resident of Agawam, has been named the recipient of the Agawam St. Patrick's Committee's Citizenship Award.

A graduate of Agawam High, Borgatti holds a bachelor's degree in business and marketing from Western New England University and a master's degree in public administration from American International College. He is the owner and operator of EB's Restaurant on Walnut Street Extension for the last 30 years, with a second nationally recognized location on the Big E fairgrounds.

Borgatti has been recognized over the years for giving back to the community in many ways. In 2011, he implanted a "Give Back" program at his business and to date, has donated over \$46,000 to local charities and organizations. He has been recognized by the Children's Miracle Network, the Larson Foundation (assisting

families of homicide victims) and Easter Seals of Massachusetts for his contributions. He was named a Partner in Philanthropy and awarded and recognized for his donations and work with Easter Seals Relay for Independence.



Edward Borgatti

Borgatti is a past president of the Agawam Chamber of Commerce, a past member of the Easter Seals board of directors and holds three different certifications in indoor cycling instruction. He currently sits on the Board of Survivor Journeys, a non-profit organization which assists cancer survivors, their caretakers and their families.

In addition to indoor cycling, he enjoys politics and has run four successful campaigns for his sister, Agawam School Committee member Shelley Borgatti-Reed. He also enjoys skiing, visiting his beach house, running and event organizing.

O'Connell garners Anne Sullivan Award

The Agawam St. Patrick's Committee has announced that Laurie O'Connell is the recipient of its Anne Sullivan Award for 2017. O'Connell has been a member of the Agawam St. Patrick's Committee for the last four years. Born in the Hungry Hill section of Springfield, she is the daughter of Ronald and Gloria LaRiviere. She has an older sister, Lisa, and younger brother, Michael.

O'Connell was raised in Feeding Hills from the age of 5, where she still lives with her husband John. They have been married for 29 years and have two adult children, Kaitlyn, a 2008 Agawam St. Patrick's Colleen Court member, and Sean, both of whom are getting married soon. She is also devoted to her pets.

O'Connell has always been actively involved in town events and activities. She was also very involved in the Granger

School PTO when her children were young and was a Booster mom and board member for the Agawam High School lacrosse team.



Laurie O'Connell

In her tenure with the St. Patrick's Committee, O'Connell has been active with the Colleen Committee, with her daughter, and the Events Committee, which organized the first, and very successful, "Half-Way to St. Patrick's Day" Pub Crawl this year. She has painted over 35 driveway shamrocks in one season and organizes an annual New York City bus trip every fall.

O'Connell enjoys putting various events together and hopes to continue that in retirement. She worked as a paralegal for the commonwealth of Massachusetts for 10 years and also works part-time on the weekends at Hardwick Vineyard and Winery doing wine-tasting events.

Nurse, chaplain named St. Pat's parade marshal

The Agawam St. Patrick's Committee has announced that its parade marshal for 2017 is Vera Conway.

The daughter of immigrant parents, George and Catherine McDonnell from Ventry, County Kerry, Ireland, she was married to her late husband Vincent for 39 years. She has two children, a daughter, Faith, who is a veteran of Desert Storm and a member Connecticut National Guard and military police, and Adam McDonnell, who is deceased.

As a child, Conway attended school in Ireland for 5 1/2 years. She is a graduate of Agawam High School and attended the St. Francis School of Nursing in Hartford, where she graduated as a registered nurse and was class president. In her early years she was a religious education coordinator and developed community service programs for 600 students to soup kitchens and nursing home visits.

Later in life she became an interfaith

CPE chaplain, working with hospital staff, families and residents, including hospice patients. She developed an outreach program for community awareness.

Seeing a "need for a voice" in concerns of the elderly, she joined the Agawam Council on Aging, served as chairman and received the Volunteer of the Year award from the town of Agawam. Conway expressed that she is most proud of being a founding member of the Friends of the Agawam Senior Center with Jim Griffin and Don McCabe. She has been a longtime member of the Agawam St. Patrick's Committee and has served as board member and past president. She also established a St. Patrick's Committee trophy case at the Agawam Public Library to display the committee's history and developed an archives area at the Agawam Housing Authority.

Conway is retired and loves music and cooking, and is the proud grandmother of Sean and Scott.



Vera Conway



Above: Pat Bertone-Gross presents a display of baskets she has collected from all over the world to the Honors I art class at AHS.

Right: Pat Bertone-Gross, center, is pictured with the AHS Honors I art class at a demonstration held Dec. 15. SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Students get a handle on craft of basketry

Pat Bertone-Gross, a retired Agawam High School math teacher, visited Debora Florek's Honors I art class on Dec. 15 to show the students baskets she has collected from Mexico, Tanzania, Japan and Indonesia. These baskets were made from a variety of materials, including straw, grass, metal and paper.

"It was interesting and informative to experience cultural differences exhibited



through a craft such as basket making," commented Cassandra Jones, a student in the class.

The curriculum coordinator for the Visual Art Department is Amber Waters.

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SPORTS

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Knights offense too much to handle for Brownies

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke High School girls basketball team has seen a lot of Agawam over the past several months.

First, it was Agawam that Holyoke defeated to open last year's playoffs. Then, the two teams met in the preseason Whip's tournament.

And last Thursday night, the Knights started their regular season campaign with a dominant victory over the Brownies 64-38.

Callie Cavanaugh, who is nearing 1,500 points and is heading next year to Florida International University, started off the season exactly the way she ended the last one. She scored double-digits in points.

And as usual, she had a great presence at the free throw line, making seven shots and finishing with a team-high 17 points overall.

But she was actually outdone by Agawam's Maddy Lockwood,

who had a game-high 19 points. Unfortunately, that number represented 50 percent of Agawam's total points in the game.

The Brownies struggled to keep up with Holyoke's offense and their ability to storm the boards.

The Knights were able to make their mark really early in the game, taking a commanding lead and keeping Agawam off the scoreboard during the first eight minutes.

Agawam's Meghan Haines scored a basket with 6:40 remaining in the first to make it 2-2, but Holyoke went on a 15-0 run after that, establishing the margin they would play with for the majority of the contest.

Natacha Hernandez-Santiago got things going with a three-pointer from the far left. She was followed by a long jumper from Cavanaugh to make it 7-2. Cavanaugh was able to sink a free throw and was followed by another



Samantha Stratton tries to chase down a loose ball. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Bianca Culhane tries to work around Holyoke's Callie Cavanaugh.



Natalie Pullen makes a pass under defensive pressure.



Maddy Lockwood gets ready to shoot.

BASKETBALL | page 12

HOCKEY

Falcons score early, shut out Brownies

By Nate Rosenthal

Turley Publications Sports Correspondent

WEST SPRINGFIELD - To win a hockey game, while shutting one's opponent is always a good thing and for that Minnechaug Aleks Vanderleeden is to be commended. But the real story in this game was the job done by the goalie on the losing end, Connor McAnanama of Agawam who faced 49 shots in the game. While he stopped 46, it was not enough and the Falcons won 3-0.

McAnanama was bombarded from the outset. The Falcons would not let up. He made five saves in the first five minutes, before Vanderleeden even faced a shot. Ten seconds after that first shot by Agawam, the Falcons had two more, the second of which, got past McAnanama. When the Falcons made it 2-0 with 5:19 to play, the shots were 11-2 and by the end of the first period, it was 18-3. Minnechaug came at McAnanama in the second to the tune



Agawam's Andrew Sullivan and Minnechaug's Matt Kowal battle for the puck. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

HOCKEY | page 12

BOYS BASKETBALL

Agawam trounces Renaissance

By Gregory A. Scibelli

gscibelli@turley.com

The Agawam High School boys basketball team overcame their first defeat of the season with a big offensive output last Thursday night at home.

Agawam defeated visiting Renaissance 85-37 to improve to 2-1 for the regular season.

The Brownies were never in trouble throughout the game, going on a huge run early in the first quarter. Meesha Ohradka, Jon Leclair, and John Wright were all firing shots with regularity, and it was 21-5 after just one quarter.

The Brownies then used the second quarter to put the game away, scoring 27 points to go up 48-19 at halftime.

Agawam was able to send its reserves in, and they played great defense late in the game, limiting Renaissance to just one point in the fourth quarter.

Ohradka had 20 points to lead all scorers. Wright would have 16 points and Leclair finished with 15 points. Dylan Christy added nine points off the bench, all coming on three-pointers. Matt Lockwood finished with eight points and Jared Durocher had seven points.

The Brownies will meet Holyoke on Wednesday, Dec. 28 at 7 p.m. and travel to Westfield on Dec. 30.

Agawam is now 2-1 this season and has three more games on its independent schedule before starting league action on Jan. 5.

Sports

WRESTLING

Brownies drop first home meet

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

AGAWAM – That first home meet of the season also gets the adrenaline running, and for 170-pounder Dominic Ledoux, he needed it as he reversed his early fortunes and was one of a few Brownies who scored pinfall victories in their dual meet against Putnam.

Unfortunately, it was Putnam's depth that would be the big difference as they defeated Agawam 46-27 last Wednesday night.

It took a while for the Brownies to get going in their meet, but Spencer Kozlak was able to get a little bit of momentum with a decision victory, leading to a pair of other Agawam victories for Kyle Ma and Michael Caracciolo before the meet was over.

Ledoux had big victory for himself when he took on Jordan Fabergas in the 170-pound match.

Fabergas was aggressive to open the match and tackled Ledoux for the takedown. He was in full control early, but Ledoux was able to get an arm around Fabergas' head. That was when the match changed for him. He used the headlock he had and reversed it right into a headlock pinning combination. He would score the win with 46 seconds remaining in the first period.

"Dominic has been working really hard during the last year to improve," said coach Armando Ramos. "That match was a really good win for him."

Kozlak, who has been primarily wrestling in the 195-pound spot, was moved up to face Davyn Peterson at 220 pounds in this meet.

The veteran did a good job taking control of the match early, and scored just twice in order to get the win.

He started with a takedown of Peterson early in the match, and then ended the



Callum Hastings gets ready to grapple. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

first period with a 2-0 lead. He chose the down position to start the second period and quickly scored a reversal to go up 4-0. Peterson managed an escape, but Kozlak would finish the match with a 4-1 decision win.

Ma had one of the impressive wins of the night for the Brownies. In his match at 113 pounds, he scored a very quick takedown after reversing a takedown attempt from his opponent, then got the pin in just 32 seconds.

Caracciolo had similar success in his match at 126 pounds, needing only 46 seconds to get the pin.

Also getting a victory in the meet was Hayden Mendrala at 138 pounds. He defeated Manuel Cruz with a pinfall in 55 seconds.

To open the season, Agawam went 1-3 in a set of dual meets on Dec. 10, only defeating Hampden Charter. Last weekend, Agawam attended a tournament in Guilford, Conn. Agawam takes a break for the holiday and then will host the Phil Tomkiel Holiday Tournament with 12 other teams attending beginning at 9 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 29.



Spencer Kozlak tries to turn over his opponent in the 220-pound match.



Hayden Mendrala battles in the 138-pound match.



Agawam High School Hockey

Position: Defense
Favorite Sport to Watch: Hockey
Favorite Pro Athlete: Patrick Kane
Favorite varsity memory and why? Beating Westfield twice last year - they are our rival and it's always a very competitive match-up.
Toughest opponent and why? Westfield. Good competition and usually a good close game with huge fan sections

and many spectators.
Song that gets you ready to compete: "We Come Running"
Who inspires you? My parents
Favorite school subject: Math
Favorite food to have after a game: Pizza
Best way to celebrate a win: Going out with the team after the game
Career goal: Mechanical engineer

SWIMMING

Boys swimming sweeps meets

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

The Agawam High School boys swimming team overcame their opening loss and picked up two straight victories, beating Westfield and Renaissance last week.

Last Tuesday, the Brownies picked up a 102-62 win over Renaissance. Agawam competitors won most of the events.

David Wheat captured two wins with the 500-yard freestyle and 200-yard freestyle events. John Wheat and David Welch had similar success, also winning two events each. John Wheat was a winner in the 100-yard freestyle and 100-yard backstroke.

Welch captured the victory in the backstroke and butterfly events.

As a team, the Brownies also captured the 200-yard freestyle relay.

The Brownies had a much closer match-up when they faced Westfield High School last Friday, but wins in most of the events helped them get to a 94-84 victory.

In this matchup, Agawam won all

three relay events, with John Wheat, David Wheat, Welch and Victor Shapovalov capturing the win in two of the relays. Shapovalov also won the 200-yard individual medley, and also got a win in the one-meter diving event, something Agawam does not do in home meets.

Welch won the backstroke while David Wheat got the win the breaststroke.

Agawam improves to 2-1 in the meet season heading into the holiday week.

The girls swimming team had similar luck against Renaissance, but did suffer a loss against Westfield last Friday. Katie Dustin would capture two wins and was part of two relays teams that had wins in the 115-11 win over Renaissance. Agawam competitors placed first in every event.

Sophia Pearson also captured a first place finish in two events, winning the 200-yard individual medley and the 500-yard freestyle.

Agawam has the holiday week off before returning to action against Northampton.

Rackliffe receives honorable mention

FRAMINGHAM – Senior right side Alycia Rackliffe (Feeding Hills, Mass.) has been selected to the American Volleyball Coaches Association Division III All-New England Region Team as well as an AVCA Division III Honorable Mention All-American.

Rackliffe, the 2015 and 2016 Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference (MASCAC) Player of the Year and first team All-MASCAC selection, capped off her career with the Rams with an outstanding senior season. Rackliffe, who was named the MASCAC player of the week in all but one week this season, finished the year leading the league in kills per set (4.73), total kills (534), total blocks (102), solo blocks (31), block assists (71) and blocks per set (0.90).

For her career, Rackliffe compiled 1,781 kills, 368 blocks, including 168 solo, with a .301 career hitting percentage.



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Have you taken photos at a local sports event and want to see them published in this paper? Email your image(s) with description to:
dforbes@turley.com or gscibelli@turley.com

Sports

er trey from Hernandez-Santiago. The Cavanaugh and Hernandez-Santiago scored through more points, and Cavanaugh herself completed the run with long underhand layup to make it 17-2 Holyoke.

The Brownies got a free throw from Bianca Culhane and a basket by Jasmine Pszczela to end the first quarter, but Agawam would trail 17-5 at the end of the quarter.

Lockwood would try to get the momentum back on Agawam's side early

BASKETBALL ■ from page 10

in the second, but Holyoke went on another run, with Mary Glasheen and Daniesha Williams scoring points to start the Knights on another run.

Williams had a three-pointer and Cavanaugh's two free throws would make it 26-7.

Agawam was never able to get back into the game during the second half, and Holyoke's lead would just continue to grow.

Holyoke is looking to make it back to the tournament this season and

have plenty of senior experience, including two big offensive weapons in Hernandez-Santiago and Cavanaugh to get them to the finals.

Williams is also a big threat in the lineup, with 12 points in Holyoke's win. Hernandez-Santiago had 11 points.

Agawam dropped to 1-1 for the season. They opened the season beating Chicopee. Agawam will be back in action facing Chicopee Comprehensive on Dec. 23.



Jasmine Pszczela tries to make a drive for the basket. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Maddy Lockwood goes for the layup.



Andrew Sullivan circles around the goal.



Cody Juzba tries to send the puck into the offensive zone.



Brian Carron tries to clear the puck in front of Agawam goalie Connor McAnanama.

HOCKEY ■ from page 10

of 17 more shots. One went in at 5:39. The Brownies managed six shots, but it was 35-9 after two. In the final frame, McAnanama stopped all 14 Falcons' shots, while the Brownies equaled their entire two period output of nine. The final tally was 49-18. To Vanderleeden's credit, he had to be good. This was a game all the way, despite the large difference in shots. At any time, a goal by the Brownies could have changed the momentum. Vanderleeden made sure it did not, as he made some very tough stops.

Less than a minute into the game, Cam Maraiani was on goal from 15 feet and then two minutes later from eight. He had a another at 10:35, before Niko Passerini, 10:04, and Nicholas Frigo. 10:00 were stopped by Vanderleeden. After the save, the puck was cleared quickly. Mariani had one shot blocked, but then off the rebound Matt Kowal drove it home at 9:53. Mariani got an assist as did Josh DeCarolis, who had the outlet.

The Falcons got four more shots in the next four minutes and the fourth at 5:19 resulted in a goal. It was Mariani from four feet after taking a sharp pass from DeCarolis, who was fed by Joseph Manning. The time was 5:19. Passerini had a shot blocked by Vanderleeden at 3:56. The Falcons put seven on McAnanama in the last four and a half minutes.

The second period was much like the first. Starting with a shot on goal30 seconds in, the Falcons pounded McAnanama with eight shots in four minutes. Passerini was on goal at 10:08, but Agawam was called for a penalty on the play. It would be another five minutes before, the Brownies got near the Falcons' goal. Over that time Mariani and William Gosselin had five of the seven shots on McAnanama. At 5:39, Mariani made a great move in front of the goal. Faking left and going right for a 3-0 lead. Zachary Varney and Padraic O'Brien had the assists.

The Brownies stepped it up in those final three minutes with shots by Preston Kozub, Ryan Laudato, Passerini and Frigo. Through, the Minnechaug lead was tentative despite their overwhelming shot lead of 35-9.

The third frame was a bit more evenly matched and at one point, the Brownies were 43-18 in shots, that last one coming with 4:17 by Jacob Shea. In the final three minutes, they were called for three penalties and they were not able to generate much offense while shorthanded.

The bottom line in this game is that Connor McAnanama kept his team, the Brownies in the game. This could have easily been a blowout of six or seven to nothing.



Anthony Passerini advances up the right side of the ice past the Agawam bench. TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Last week's scores

Tuesday, Dec. 13 Boys Swimming Agawam 102, Renaissance 62 Girls Swimming Agawam 115, Renaissance 11	Friday, Dec. 16 Boys Indoor Track Westfield 54, Agawam 40 Girls Indoor Track Westfield 60.3, Agawam 34.7 Boys Swimming Agawam 94, Westfield 84 Girls Swimming Westfield 133, Agawam 49
Wednesday, Dec. 14 Wrestling Putnam 46, Agawam 27	Saturday, Dec. 17 Ice Hockey West Springfield at Agawam, ppd. (snow)
Thursday, Dec. 15 Boys Basketball Agawam 85, Renaissance 37 Girls Basketball Holyoke 64, Agawam 38 Ice Hockey Minnechaug 4, Agawam 0	

The week ahead

Thursday, Dec. 22 Ice Hockey Agawam at Longmeadow 6:30 p.m. Wrestling Agawam at West Springfield 6 p.m.	Saturday, Dec. 24 No games scheduled Sunday, Dec. 25 No games scheduled Monday, Dec. 26 No games scheduled Tuesday, Dec. 27 Wednesday, Dec. 28 Boys Basketball Holyoke at Agawam 7 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 23 Girls Basketball Chicopee Comprehensive at Agawam 7 p.m.	

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Out & About

OUR CALENDAR SECTION is intended to promote free events, or those that directly affect a volunteer-driven organization. Paid events that are not deemed benefits do not qualify. Non-charitable events that charge the public for profit are not allowed as we consider that paid advertising. The deadline to submit calendar items is Monday at noon. Send to the Agawam Advertiser News at aan@turley.com, fax to 413-786-8457, or mail to Turley Publications, 380 Union St., West Springfield, MA 01089. We usually print at least one week prior to an event. The listings should be brief with only time, date, location, activity explanation and contact information.

Friday, Jan. 6

THE AGAWAM CULTURAL COUNCIL will present acoustic rock duo CO2 at 7 p.m. at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St. Free and open to the public. For more information, visit www.agawamcc.org.

Wednesday, Jan. 11

THE ELM-BELCHER MASONIC LODGE, 53 River St., Agawam offers an all-you-can-eat spaghetti supper at a cost of \$8 for adults, \$4 for children. The public is welcome.

ONGOING

BEGINNER TAI CHI classes at the Southwick Senior Center on Wednesdays from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. Easy stretching and slow, gentle movements that improve balance and strength and enhance the immune system. For more information, call 413-569-5498.

ADULT DROP-IN SIT & KNIT meets at the Agawam Public Library at 750 Cooper St. Tuesdays from 1-3 p.m. Bring your sticks and join other knitters for creative time. No registration is required.

GRANDPARENT'S PLAYGROUP Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m., at St. David's Church, 699 Springfield St., Feeding Hills. This free infant and toddler playgroup features music and movement, fostering children's interactions and sharing skills. Open to all grandparents and their grandchildren. Follows school schedule.

MOM 2 MOM takes place the second Tuesday of every month October through June, 9:30 to 11 a.m. at Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main St. A round-table discussion hosted by a local "veteran" mom, this is a great way to have further conversation on recent café themes and parent education events, celebrate

parenting and receive encouragement for the trials.

THE WESTFIELD WOMAN'S CLUB's clubhouse is available for rentals for wedding receptions, bridal showers, baby showers, graduation celebrations, and birthday and anniversary parties by the hour or the day. For more information, Lilian at 413-568-2916.

THE AGAWAM ST. PATRICK COMMITTEE meets the third Wednesday of each month, September through June, at 6:30 p.m. in the lower level classroom at St. John the Evangelist Church, 833 Main St., Agawam. For information on how to join, call Vera Conway at 413-786-3247 or email Rosemary Sandlin at rosemarysandlin@gmail.com

ADULT DROP-IN SIT AND KNIT meets every Tuesday from 1-3 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St. No registration needed.

AGAWAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 459 Mill St., Agawam, offers "Crochet Club" the first and third Tuesday of each month from 7 to 8:30 p.m. This club is open to all needle-workers, including crocheters, knitters, quilters, and embroiderers. For more information, call 413-786-7991.

A BREAST CANCER AND MASTECTOMY SUPPORT GROUP meets the fourth Tuesday of each month from 6 to 7:15 p.m. at 2 South Bridge Drive, Suite 1B, Agawam. Registration is required by calling 413-789-0200 or online at www.survivorjourneys.org.

AN ALL CANCER SUPPORT GROUP meets the first Tuesday of each month from 6 to 7 p.m. at Sacred Heart Parish Center, 1061 Springfield St., Feeding Hills. Registration is required by calling 413-789-0200 or online at www.survivorjourneys.org.

A BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP meets the second Wednesday of each month at Heritage Woods Assisted Facility, 462 Main St., Agawam. Registration is required by calling 413-789-0200 or online at www.survivorjourneys.org.

YOUR CAR, TRUCK OR CAMPER may be worth more as a donation than a trade-in. Call the Massachusetts Association for the Blind at 888-613-2777 for more information. Towing is free. All donations are tax deductible.

Agawam Senior Center

Lunch Menu

Monday, Dec. 26: Senior Center closed.
Tuesday, Dec. 27: Shepherd's pie, garden salad, banana.
Wednesday, Dec. 28: Roast turkey, stuffing, glazed carrots, pudding.
Thursday, Dec. 29: American chop suey, Caesar salad, mixed fruit.
Friday, Dec. 30: Pork chops, mashed potatoes, California blend vegetable, baked good.

Calendar of Events

Monday, Dec. 26: Senior Center closed.
Tuesday, Dec. 27: 9 a.m., open knitting / sewing class; noon, ladies only billiards; 12:30 p.m.,

mah jongg, movie ("Holiday Affair"); 1 p.m., Mexican Train Game; 2:30 p.m., chorus; 4:30 p.m., yoga; 6 p.m., beginner line dance.
Wednesday, Dec. 28: 8 a.m., weight training; 8:15 a.m., yoga; 9:45 a.m., Gentle Yoga; 12:30 p.m., bridge; 1 p.m., scrabble; 1:30 p.m., Golden Agers Chapter 1 meeting; 5:30 p.m., Zumba Gold.
Thursday, Dec. 29: 9:30 a.m., quilting; 10 a.m., line dancing; 12:30 p.m., bridge; 1 p.m., pitch, open art; 2 p.m., Melody Band practice; 6:30 p.m., pitch.
Friday, Dec. 30: 8 a.m., Yoga; 9:15 a.m., Let's Paint; noon, canasta; 1 p.m., pitch, cribbage.

Notices

**AGAWAM
ZONING BOARD
OF APPEALS
LEGAL NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that the Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing at the **Agawam Public Library, Community Room, 750 Cooper Street, Agawam, MA** on **Monday, January 9, 2017 at 6:30PM** for all parties interested in the appeal of Mark & Maria Graveline and Monica & Justin Curtis, who are seeking a Variance from Section 180-25 (A) of the Town of Agawam's Zoning Ordinances, which would allow for the construction of a front porch on a residential structure with less than the required front setback at the premises identified as 40 Valentine St.

Doreen Prouty
Chairperson

Agawam Board of Appeals
12/22, 12/29/16

**AGAWAM
ZONING
BOARD OF APPEALS
LEGAL NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that the Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing at the **Agawam Public Library, Community Room, 750 Cooper Street, Agawam, MA** on **Monday, January 9, 2017 at 7:00 PM** for all parties interested in the appeal of Pavel Kuzmenko who is seeking a Special Permit in accordance with Section 180-7 of the Town of Agawam's Zoning Ordinances, which would allow for the construction of a duplex on a lot that is legally non-conforming at the premises identified as 63 High Street.

Doreen Prouty

Chairperson
Agawam Board of Appeals
12/22, 12/29/16

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.



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of holly, trim the tree with
lights that glow, and send
heartfelt wishes to the
best folks we know!**

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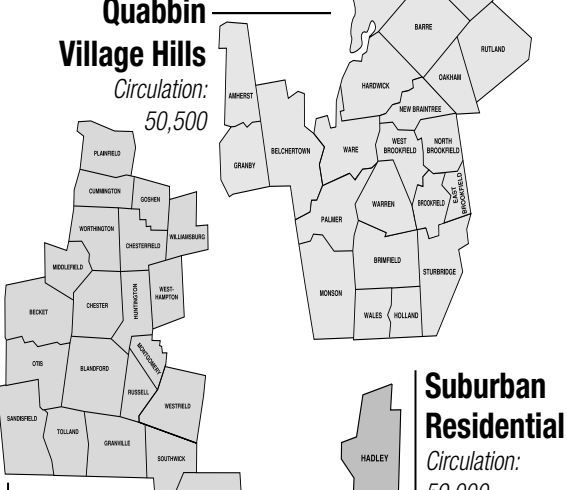
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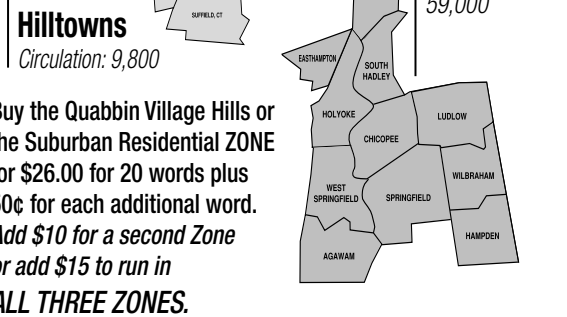
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5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
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21 Base Price \$26.50	22 Base Price \$27.00	23 Base Price \$27.50	24 Base Price \$28.00
25 Base Price \$28.50	26 Base Price \$29.00	27 Base Price \$29.50	28 Base Price \$30.00
29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
33 Base Price \$32.50	34 Base Price \$33.00	35 Base Price \$33.50	36 Base Price \$34.00
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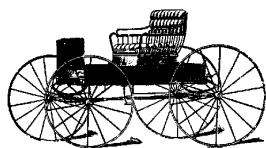
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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.
This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development " HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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CLASSIFIEDS

Advertising Deadline will be **NOON**

Thurs., Dec. 22

for the week of Dec. 26

Thurs., Dec. 29

for the week of Jan. 2

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Dave's gift cards support animal agencies

Dave's Soda and Pet City will be sharing holiday cheer this December by donating a percentage of its gift card sales to two local pet agencies. The Dakin Humane Society and Thomas J. O'Connor Animal Control and Care Center will receive 10 percent

of the gift card purchases totaling \$50 or more.

Gift cards may be purchased throughout December at any Dave's Soda and Pet City locations, including the one at 151 Springfield St., Agawam.

Florida 'Agawam Day' is March 1

The 36th annual "Agawam Day in Florida" will be held Wednesday, March 1, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Former Agawam residents, old friends, classmates and relatives will meet at Fort DeSoto National Park, St. Peters-

burg, Fla., for a reunion, picnic, raffles, hugs and old memories.

For information on next year's event, contact Hank Drewnowski at 860-462-7273 or email hdrew2452@gmail.com.



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